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Extracts from the Minutes of the Synod  
of New Jersey (Presbyterian Church)

October 18, 1826

"Agreeably to the suggestions contained in their last report and the instructions of the Synods, the Board endeavored to devise a more extensive and efficient plan for the instruction of African children and youth. The subject was discussed by them at several meetings till they became fully convinced that a system of education adapted to the wants of that degraded and much injured race must embrace instruction in literature, science and the mechanic arts and that in order to secure sufficient patronage it must be divested of its sectarian character. From a correspondence with Benjamin L. Lear, Esquire, of the city of Washington, who is entrusted with the management of the Kúsciusko fund, they were led to believe that it might be applied to the support of an African school established on general principles. As the available amount of this fund is about thirteen thousand dollars they deemed it important to have a society formed and incorporated as soon as possible which should be authorized to receive and hold this and other funds which might be obtained for this object. Presuming on the approbation of the Synods, they called a public meeting of the friends of the injured children of Africa in Newark, New Jersey in the month of February last. Measures were then taken to assemble a more general meeting in that town in April, which was accordingly held. At that meeting a Resolution was passed to incorporate an 'African Education Society' and a Board of Trustees was chosen.



At a subsequent meeting of the Trustees, the importance of the object and the peculiar difficulties connected with it determined the Trustees to invite a number of the firm and ardent friends of this unhappy race to meet with them at Newark in the month of August. This meeting was attended by respectable gentlemen from various parts of the United States and among others by Mr. Lear. He approved the plan of the school contemplated by the Trustees and engaged to apply the Kosciusko fund to its support, provided an equal sum should be raised for the object, and in case the sum raised should fall short of it to appropriate an equal amount. Measures are now being taken by the Trustees to raise a sum for the benefit of the School at least equal to the Kosciusko fund. Should they succeed agreeably to their expectations in this enterprise, they confidently believe it will result in incalculable good to that unhappy and oppressed race of men for whose benefit it was undertaken. As it is their design to educate for the Gospel ministry those placed at the Kosciusko school who may be suitable candidates for that sacred office, your Board would respectfully suggest to the Synods the propriety of transmitting to the Trustees of the African Education Society the funds in their possession together with the records and papers and the young man under their care to be disposed of as they shall deem best calculated to promote the great object of African Education".

This report was adopted.



Theodore Frelinghuysen explained the failure to get the money from the Kosciuszko fund because of the relatives in contesting the will and reported that some funds which had already been collected had been applied to the education of two or three/<sup>worthy</sup> colored men of promise in a letter quoted in African Repository, Vol. 11, p. 294-295. See also "George Washington and the Negro" by Walter H. Mazyck, pp. 143-149, The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 Ninth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., 1932, pp. vii + 180 for information on the fund and a copy of the letter by Frelinghuysen.

*(Same letter in DW 92.7 p. 148-149)*  
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For a final disposition of the Kosciuszko fund and a complete history of the fund see U. S. Supreme Court Report, December Term, 1852 - Ennis et al vs. Smith et al, 14 Howard 400. (A copy in the law library of the Prudential Life Insurance Co. Permission to use it granted by executive action only).

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An article on the "Kosciuszko School" in Newark Sentinel August 15, 1826. *(Not in Newark Library - At N. J. Hist. Soc.)*  
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Law incorporating the African Education Society. New Jersey Laws 1826, p. 89, 90. Law passed 12/5/1826.  
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"Mr. Dodd presented the petition of Theodore Frelinghuysen, President, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the African Education Society praising the appropriation of a part of the school fund for the use of the said society; committed."

Minutes of Legislative proceedings.  
Trenton Emporium, November 4, 1826 *(in N. J. Hist. Soc.)*